

# PREKESE GHANAMEDIA TIMES

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## GHANA DAY OF PERCUSSION 2015 HELD @ CAPE COAST

The much anticipated Percussive Arts Society Ghana's Day of Percussion (DOP 2015) with the theme, " Drums of Passion, Drums Of Unity" has been held at Cape Coast during the annual Oguaa Fetu Afahye held in September.



The Percussive Arts Society is a global music service organisation with a focus on percussion education, research, promotion, events organising and promotion. It is based in the United States of America with branches all over the world with only one chapter in Africa which is in Ghana.



Days of Percussion events are one of the numerous activities and services that the PAS offers the world and they are special days set aside by the local chapters to offer percussion related events to meet local needs, to create awareness of the work of PAS, recruit new members and help sustain local music culture of the host state or country.

The DOP events which were incorporated as part of the numerous events lined up for the community's festival saw the PAS Ghana either collaborating with or sponsoring community cultural organizations, leading to their full participation in the durbar day event.



Oguaa Fetu Afahye has an interesting history:

According to tradition, a plague once ravaged the Oguaa community – Cape Coast was founded as a fishing community by a man, Oguaa who gave his name to the place. Such was the devastating effect of the plague that the people called on their gods before the plague stopped and the land was cleansed. The word fetu is a contraction of 'efin tu' in the local dialect which means clearing the dirt.

Oguaa Fetu Afahye festival is therefore a commemoration

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purification which saved the land from the plague and a show of gratitude to the 77 gods ( Abosom Eduasoneson) of the Oguaa Traditional Area.

Before the start of the Fetu Afahye celebrations, the Omanhene (paramount chief of the Oguaa) spent a week in confinement to confer with the gods. A ban was placed on drumming, dancing, noise making and merriment within the municipality, while fishing in the Fosu Lagoon were forbidden at this period.

A cleansing ritual was offered at the lagoon by the Amissafo (guardians of the lagoon) for the deities to ward off bad omen, while also entreating for abundance of fish and bumper harvest of food crop.

The next was the general cleaning of the environment. This day is known as Amuntumadeze (Health Day) and all the people tidy and spruce up the community.

Other highlight events were opening the Fosu lagoon, sacrifices and special ritual days and the new orange Friday event hosted by a local radio station.



As part of its commitment to the festival, PAS-Ghana sponsored some of the cultural groups that performed during the main procession throughout the principal streets of Cape Coast. Among them were some selected Asafo companies in Cape Coast, Kyidom Drummers, Nyamoransa Fontonfrom, Twafo Fontonfrom, Ankaakor Brass Band, Gyankobo Adowa Group, Wawase Brass Band and many more.

Among the dignitaries that graced the occasion were the Vice President of Ghana, Mr. Paa Kwesi Aminsah -Arthur, many government officials, the paramount chief of Oguaa Traditional council, Osabarima Kwesi Atta II,



traditional leaders, religious leaders, elected officials and leaders, foreign dignitaries and many more.

Speaking at the durbar, the Vice President called on all the people to unite in the interests of the community's development.

The paramount chief, Osabarima Kwesi Atta II decried people in the community who are always fanning litigation and chieftaincy disagreements, disputes and even conflicts. He said, Oguaa can move forward if the people unite.





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Mr. Francis Frimpong, a cultural researcher and educator based in Germany who was the guest of honour for the DOP event later at the old court space during the refreshment, commended PAS-Ghana for its continuing support of percussion and other cultural events in the community.

Ms Ernestina Biney, Mr. William Klutse and Fiifi Quaison, PAS-Ghana executives also took turns to educate the gathering about PAS and made a membership drive appeals.

Mr, Harold Akyeampong, the President of the PAS-Ghana, thanked all the registered members, other drummers, musicians and audience members

and called on them to consider becoming new members..

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